Law 7911-Federal Tax Research Course Syllabus

Instructor: Carlton Huntley, JD, LLM

Email: carlton.huntley@thomsonreuters.com

Class Time and Location: Fridays 1:45pm-4:00pm

Course Description: The goal of this course is to provide support, instruction and evaluation aimed at writing a robust (20-25 pages) tax research paper on a carefully selected federal tax research topic.

Office Hours: Fridays-1:15-1:45pm
            Thursdays-12:15pm-1:15pm

Course Objectives

- Students will effectively research and select compelling topics that warrant further research and analysis.
- Students will focus on how to communicate an analysis of various sources of tax law in persuasive, professional writing.
- Students will effectively and ethically incorporate AI into their research, drafting, and revision process.
- Students will scout and find potential audiences and places of publication for their work.
- Students will have a thorough understanding of different ways to organize and present their research.
- Students will understand how to collaborate, give helpful feedback, and support peers during their tax research.
- Students will learn to effectively use and incorporate feedback from peers and professors to revise and improve drafts.

Required Texts

- No required texts. Any material that requires review will be emailed ahead of each class meeting.

Course Schedule

Schedule is subject to change

Introduction to Tax Research and Tax Law- Goals, Deadlines, Objectives- January 23rd

This class will be an introduction to tax law research, classmates, and the professor. We will go over class goals and expectations. Class will also include a brief overview of different areas of tax law and the different tax types.

Unit 1: Research Topic Selection and Research Question Formation-January 30th and February 6th

During this unit we will discuss tips and methods to identify and select a worthy research topic. Class will also collaborate to create a bank of research topics from which students can select a topic. Class will also use preliminary research to turn a general research topic into a specific research question.

Unit 2: Gathering Sources for the Topic & **Ethical AI Usage -February 13th and February 20th**

During this unit we will go over how to find and evaluate both primary and secondary sources for our research

topic/question. Also, we will discuss how to weigh the credibility of these sources. We will also discuss how to incorporate AI into our research and outline process.

Unit 3: Structuring, Organizing, and Outlining a Legal Research Paper- March 6th and March 13th

During this unit we will discuss how to structure, organize, and outline our papers to fit our potential audience. We will also begin first drafts based on professor and peer feedback on outlines.

Unit 4: Choosing your Audience- March 27th

During this unit we will take some time to consider places our research paper may appear and structure our writing style and topic coverage to fit our potential audience.

Final Class-Peer Review of Drafts and Outlines- April 3rd

During this class we will review and give feedback on outlines and drafts in preparation of the final paper submission.

Course Policies

Communication

The best way to get in contact with me is via email. Please allow at least 24 hours for me to respond to any inquiries. If I do not respond within 24 hours, please send a follow-up email.

Attendance

Consistent attendance is required. You are allowed two unexcused absences in this class. The second unexcused absence and each subsequent absence will result in an automatic grade deduction by one letter grade. Excused absences, such as university sponsored events, religious holidays, medical issues with documentation, and dean's excuses do not count towards the unexcused absences. All excused absences require documentation. In the event of any absence, it is your responsibility to find out any notes, assignments or syllabus changes you missed. Please contact one of your fellow classmates to find out what you missed in class. Additionally, being more than twenty minutes late without proper notification will result in an unexcused absence.

Required Reading Materials

Please be sure to register for the Canvas course and have any required materials with you in print or easily accessible electronic form in class. You are responsible for checking your Canvas page and the e-mail connected to the page on a regular basis for any class announcements or adjustments.

Classroom Preparation

It is anticipated that you will spend approximately 2 hours out of class reading and/or preparing for in class assignments for every 1 hour in class. ABA Standard 310 requires that students devote 120 minutes to out-of-class preparation for every "classroom hour" of in-class instruction. Federal Tax Research has 2 "classroom hours" of in-class instruction each week, requiring at least 4 hours of preparation outside of class.

Accommodations Policy

In compliance with University of Florida policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that you may require as a student with a disability. Requests for academic accommodations need to be made during the first two weeks of the semester, except for unusual circumstances, so arrangements can be made. Students must register with the Office of the Dean of the College for disability verification and for determination of reasonable academic accommodations.

Academic Integrity

All submitted work must be your own and be properly cited. Be sure to talk to me about any questions you may have regarding plagiarism, academic honesty and proper citation methods.

To maintain the scholarly standards of the program, and, equally important, the personal ethical standards of our students, it is essential that written assignments be a student's own work, just as is expected in examinations and class participation. A student who commits academic dishonesty is subject to a range of penalties, including suspension or expulsion.

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. **Complete student anonymity is preserved during and after the evaluation process.** Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals or via https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at "https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/."

Grading
Final grades will be based on the following:

Final Paper (Due April 27th)- 75%
Participation- 25%

Students will be evaluated primarily on seminar participation and on the quality of their research papers. Quality papers are expected to compile and use research to make thorough and coherent conclusions and arguments. Also, a portion of the grade will be determined based on active and voluntary participation that is of consistently high quality in class discussion.

UF LEVIN COLLEGE OF LAW STANDARD SYLLABUS POLICIES:
Other information about UF Levin College of Law policies can be found at this link.

UF ACADEMIC POLICIES AND RESOURCES:
Other information about UF academic policies and resources can be found at this link.

Grading Scale

A: 93-100   B+: 89-87

A-: 92-90

B: 86-84

B-: 83-80

C+: 79-77

C: 76-74

C-: 73-70

D+: 69-67

D: 66-64

D-: 63-60

F: Below 60